

Via Health, Fitness and Enrichment Center

2020-2021

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Publish Date: February 2022



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BUILDING BACK SENIOR STRONG

In March of 2020, the Via Center was “closed to the public” due to the Governor’s Safer-At-Home-Order. But, our community’s Seniors know that our organization **did not close** during Covid. We revamped our programs to virtual (online Fitness Portal and the *Seniors Staying Connected* e-newsletter), drive through (socials and food distributions) and outdoor fitness classes.

The Via Center Mission dictates that our organization does not only serve members on-site, but also serve Seniors - and their families - throughout Mobile County. We are serving about 80% of our normal onsite census, but our community outreach has grown by 20%. This was a re-alignment based on Senior needs community-wide, resulting from the Covid pandemic. Our outreach continues to grow and now includes on-going drive through food distributions and programs for Seniors living in income-based housing.

We fully re-opened - **in careful phases and with a vaccination requirement** - in May of 2021. This Annual Report is a celebration of the resiliency of our community’s Seniors, as we worked hard to build back Senior Strong.



Community partnerships were key to our successful re-opening. We would like to thank the Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce, United Way, the Area Agency on Aging, AARP of Mobile and all of our partners.

How Do You SAFELY RE-OPEN A COMMUNITY SENIOR CENTER?

THE PHASES OF RE-OPENING VIA

SENIOR CENTER REOPENING GUIDELINES

Issued In Accordance with Governor Kay Ivey's State Health Order of April 7, 2021.



Feb. 2021

Pre-Opening Protocol

Align all measures with the ADSS and CDC. Measure and redesign Fitness Center and all classroom space in 42,000 square foot facility for social distancing. Plexiglass safety barriers, place hand sanitizing stations, reconfigure entry and exit routes. Finalize purchase of \$20,000 in Covid safety and health equipment and supplies (Refer to Covid Safety and Health Protocols). Hold series of pre-registration events for member vaccination documentation. Staff vaccination requirement.

May 2021

PHASE I - Re-Opening

Daily staff and member check-in protocol: symptom assessment, waiver and thermoscan temperature check. Mask and social distance mandate. No eating/drinking onsite. Limited program offerings: Fitness Classes, Fitness Center, Walking, Tai Chi, Line Dance, Pickleball, Billiards, Acrylic Art, Computer Lab. Fitness/activity participation caps.

June 2021

PHASE II

Program offerings increased: card games and puzzles, crafts/ceramics, beginner Pickleball, Art. Masks not required in specific congregate activities if social distance observed.

July 2021

PHASE III

Temperature checks and paper assessments not required. Entry and exit routes no longer mandated. Snacks and drinks allowed. **Averaging 150 members per day.**

PHASE III Update - Delta Variant Spread

Mask mandate in all congregate areas of the facility.

August 2021

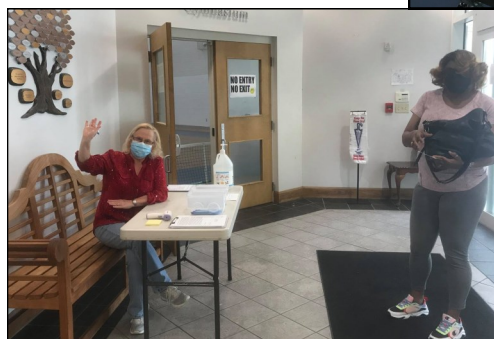
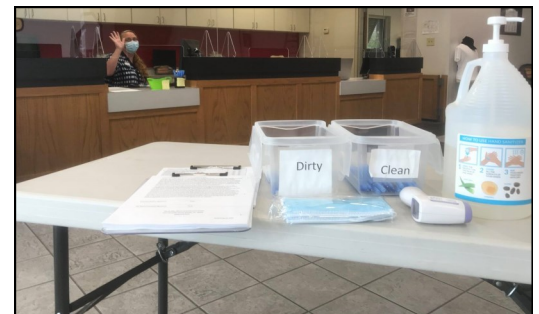
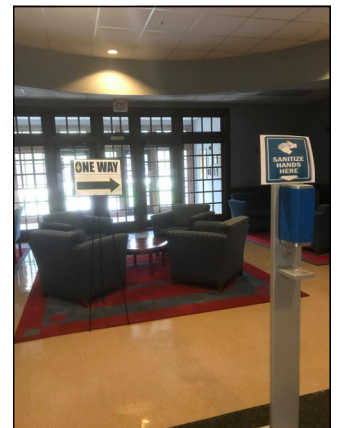
PHASE IV

GrandFriends Adult Daycare Re-opens. Client vaccination mandate and expanded Covid safety protocols to protect clients.

Oct. 2021

PHASE V

Dauphin Street Café open for vaccinated members and community to go orders. Plexiglass safety barriers, limited table seating for social distance requirements.



Happy to Back to the Business of Serving Seniors

Are we enthusiastic at the Via Center?...Are we cautiously optimistic about our financial future?...Are we comfortable with our Covid safety and health protocols for onsite Seniors? Yes! I looked back at the 2019-2020 Annual Report - written in the height of the pandemic - and one of my statements was this: ***“We can hope that at the printing of our next Annual Report, all of our Seniors have been vaccinated, the Via Center is open for business, and our old way of life has returnedwith no masks!”*** Well, two out of three ain't bad!



But First, A Pause

I'd like to take a sober pause on the pandemic's affect on Seniors. To say that Covid has had a disproportionately negative affect on Seniors is an understatement. Any virus with a high death rate, that forces Senior isolation and disrupts routines, such as getting medical check ups, is a cause for major concern. What we have found (no surprise there) is that the Greatest Generation has once again proved its resiliency. And, we were right there with them. We built an e-newsletter, *“Seniors Staying Connected,”* to a readership of 5,000, and we used this tool to educate and encourage vaccinations for Seniors and family members. We found ways to provide programs to keep them mentally and physically well. We also led the way, and opened with a vaccination mandate for our members.

Our Planned Path to Re-Opening

Our reopening mantra was: “Senior Strong and Covid Safe.” Our Seniors desperately wanted their Center for health, fitness and enrichment programs. After months of isolation, they missed their friends, and their mental and physical health was deteriorating. So, we invested more than \$30,000 in commercial grade Covid safety equipment and supplies: a halo fogging machine; an HVAC disinfecting coil system; 18 air purifiers; hand sanitizing stations; and developed a Contact Tracing Program second to none.

Using Our “Closed to the Public” Time To Upgrade

With the lay-off of 70% of our staff, we were able to move resources into maintaining and upgrading our facility. Some of our projects included:

- Replacing 2 HVAC units in kitchen & back hall
- Purchasing 5 new computers and a new polycom phone system for staff
- Upgrading Parking lot lights (to LED) and Emergency Exit Lighting Systems
- Replacing 50 year old Electrical Buss Duct (hub for all power into the Center)
- Inspecting and Cleaning fire sprinkler system
- Updating TV Room, Welcome Desk and TV Alcove, including flooring, painting, furniture and aesthetics

On the program side, we assumed management of Mobile County's Volunteer Guardian Program (VGP). VGP is a partnership with Probate Court, in which legal Guardians are assigned to make decisions for the mentally incapacitated. Via recruits, trains and supports these wonderful volunteers. The VGP is the only program of its kind in Alabama.

What Lies Ahead for the Via Center

Senior outreach - especially in the County - is a major area of expansion for Via. Many rural Seniors don't have access to services, and they have basic needs for food and Covid cleaning supplies. Have bus - will travel! Our upcoming plans include outreach to Citronelle, Bayou La Batre, Semmes and many other wonderful Senior communities.

We hope you will join us for our 50th Anniversary Celebration in August of 2022. We will celebrate Seniors while dancing to The Tip Tops, sharing libations and eating some great food from our own Dauphin Street Cafe. Please check our website for updates and know YOU are invited!

Stay Senior Strong and Covid Safe,

Deanna

VIA CENTER FINANCIAL SNAP SHOT

FINANCIAL REPORT

AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2021

ASSETS

Total Checking/Savings	\$254,474.65
Accounts Receivable	\$28,790.98
Other Current Assets	\$26,374.00
Total Current Assets	\$309,639.63
Fixed Assets	\$2,386,555.11
Total Other Assets	\$211,486.43
TOTAL ASSETS	\$2,907,681

LIABILITIES/EQUITIES

Accounts Payable	\$28,996
Other Current Liabilities	\$202,798.83
Total Current Liabilities	\$231,795.22
Long Term Liabilities	\$854,701.25
Century Bank Building Loan	
Total Long Term Liabilities	\$854,701.25
Total Liabilities	\$1,086,496.47
Total Equity	\$1,821,184.70
TOTAL LIABILITES AND EQUITY	\$2,907,681.17

Administrative and Fundraising Expenses: 10.4%

During 2020-2021, the Via Center fought on behalf of our Seniors for every Covid dollar available.

The organization received Covid-related funds through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act for outreach programs, state-level funding for Covid expenses, an SBA EIDL loan, a PPP grant and several United Way mini-grants.

Our City of Mobile, CDBG, Mobile County and Title III Performance Contracts were all level-funded. We were able to secure an increase in United Way funding and secure local grant program funds for our new Volunteer Guardian Program (VGP).

Due to our Covid safety and health protocols, Via Center members began rejoining and our census was at 60% in 2021.

Above all, the pandemic has further reinforced that our funding comes primarily from our Community Needs Outreach Programs and Services.

The Via Center is in a good financial position to continue growing our Organization and serving additional Seniors and their families in the next year.

COMMUNITY SERVICES SNAPSHOT

We served Seniors more than 20,000 times.

Dauphin Street Cafe' - opened in October 2021

Grandfriends Adult Daycare - opened in August 2021

Volunteer Guardian Program - transition in 2021

Drive-Through Community Food Distributions & Socials:

Mardi Gras, Holiday turkey give-a-way, Easter Hams,

Stock-the Staples, Labor Day Labor of Love, Halloween Grill & Grab

Transportation - new bus secured through 5310 funds

Veterans Programs - Drive-Through Veterans Day Luncheon

Information & Referral 211 Service

Neighbor to Neighbor Call/Check Ins

Outreach to income-based Senior housing: grill out and birthday celebration



UPDATE ON OUR GROWING GIVING TREE CAMPAIGN

Although the Via Center was closed to the public, the organization still had on-going expenses to maintain the facility. In order for our Seniors to have a Center to return to, Insurance and utilities had to be paid, and facility repairs and updates had to be made. Via income decreased thousands of dollars each month due to the closure of the GrandFriends Adult Daycare, Community Rental Program, the Dauphin Street Café, and the loss of membership/program fees. We asked our members, supporters and community partners to participate in our Giving Tree Campaign. Our supporters did not let us down, and more than \$30,000 has been raised to date as part of this on-going giving campaign.

We will be asking our members and the community to **Help us Grow Our Giving Tree** as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration in August of 2022.



THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

Large Stone

Mr. and Mrs. Max & Audrey Goldberg
Benjamin A. Meisler

Medium Stone

White-Spinner Foundation

Small Stone

Mobile County Commission District 2
Mobile County Commission District 1
David L. Ishe for (Brother) Volunteer
Guardian
AARP

Gold Leaf

Azalea City Credit Union
Conrad and Gigi Armbrrecht
Arlene F. Mitchell
F. Grey Redditt, Jr.
Bry Shields

Silver Leaf

Lisa Mitchell Charitable Foundation
Donald and Holle Briskman
Randy and Jean Fausak
In Honor of Arlene Mitchell - Joy and James Grodnick
Chuck Loves Mary Jo Hrabec
True Nicolson "For All the Good You Do for So Many"
Alabama Power

Bronze Leaf

Charlie Brown
Bruce and Cathy Wagner
Adline C. Clarke
Art and Susie Crooker
Blane Crutchfield & Barbara Estes
Tom and Sarah Damson
Dr. Roma Hanks

"You Are Never Too Old To Set Another Goal Or Dream a New Dream"

Mr. Ian Gaston
Wayman R.F. Grant, Jr. And Charlie G. Grant - God Bless!
Jani and Ronnie Handwerger
Margo and Mark Hughes
Joan Inge
Bryan and Michelle Jones
In Loving Memory of Freddie E. King - Wife Wanda B. King
Brian and Linda Kloter
Billie Kohen
Micheale and Lynda
Dorothy Mollise
Anonymous - Via Center Supporter
Paul and Deanna Murphy "Dedicated to Team Via"
Sharon and Tony Poggi
Nancy H. Seibt - Thank You Via!
Claudia and Jeff Smith
Clarissa Wiggins Tucker
Ms. Elizabeth Walmsley
Donald and Anita Winn
Frank and Alicia Erckmann - Parents of Barbara Estes
Russ and Kathy Hayes
Rodney and Dorothy Mollise
Wanda B. King: "In Loving Memory of Our Mother, Mrs. Druecilla Buskey.
Salute to GrandFriends

Acorn

Ellen Alves - Premier Care Management
Betty Beverly
Leroy Cassidy
Laura Compton
Jacquelyn Elder
Kim K. Enikeieff, CPA
Robert Hanks
In Loving Memory of Gordon McCracken
Marion Quina

Ellen and William Shulman
Margie Stiely
Dot Tatom
Ronald and Sherea Weiss
Gail White
Delores W. Wiley
Mary Cooley
Rosemary Hall
Robert Broach
Janie L. Daugherty
Karen Duren
Cecile Fibbe
Myra Gibby
William E. Graves - Dorothy M. Graves
Sandy Holberg
Deborah McAuley
Courtney McGowin
Glenda Parker
Reverend David A. Powers
Paula Stadther
Silvia Zimmerman
Roy Carter
Priscilla Gold Darby
William "Tar" Dickerson
Patricia Haga
Edna Litton
Susan B. Meztista
Ms. Ernestine P. Moore
Emily H. Sommer
Dorothy L. Stone
Constance P. Taylor
OraDee Whittaker
Rebecca Wilson
Joan Hoffman
Elizabeth Birmingham
Carol George
Arthur and Betty Hunter
Sharon Westry
Geraldine England
Peggy Scarcliff
Rosemary Hall

COVID SAFETY & HEALTH PROTOCOL



COVID SAFETY STATEMENT

The Via Center takes the health and safety of our Senior Citizens and guests seriously.

The Center has - and will continue to - exceed existing standards and guidelines. In 2020-2021, the organization made a \$30,000 investment in commercial grade equipment and supplies.

Our on-going safety protocols include:

1. Contact Tracing Program (CTP) which uses a database system for identification, notification and tracking any potential Covid exposures.
2. Weekly HaloFogging which blows disinfecting micro-droplets into the air and onto all surfaces and provides hours of continuous disinfection.
3. HVAC/coil system that recirculates air continuously and disinfects air particles.
4. 18 commercial-grade Medify-Air purifiers throughout the building, capable of removing harmful particles in 840 square feet every 30 minutes.
5. CDC guideline cleaning protocols and products used daily, including masks, gloves, temperature scanners, hand sanitizer and sanitization stations.

Due to our Contact Tracing Program (CTP), the Via Center has not had any verifiable secondary Covid transmissions.

Vaccination required for Via Center members. Masks and social distancing mandated for all Via Center guests.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Via Health, Fitness and Enrichment Center promotes a healthy, active, independent lifestyle among older adults. Via advocates, teaches and leads health and safety-related aging programs and initiatives for the surrounding community.

VISION STATEMENT

Via provides wellness programs, family and individual support services and aging solutions. Via is a dedicated advocate for mature adults and the challenges of health and aging.



VOLUNTEER GUARDIAN PROGRAM (VGP)

In 2020, the Area Agency on Aging recruited the Via Center to take over the management of the Volunteer Guardian Program. The VGP is a partnership with Mobile Probate Court in which incapacitated individuals (typically Seniors) are appointed a Volunteer Guardian to make decisions for their basic living, medical care and quality of life issues. This is a legal relationship, and the Via center recruits, trains and provides on-going support for our amazing Guardians.

VIA HEALTH, FITNESS AND ENRICHMENT CENTER
1717 DAUPHIN STREET
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36604
251.478.3311

INFO@VIAMOBILE.ORG
WWW.VIAMOBILE.ORG

IG: VIAHEALTHFITNESS

FB: VIA HEALTH, FITNESS AND ENRICHMENT CENTER

